

4 – 5mm long, were promptly preserved in 70% alcohol and subsequently given to Dr. Cox who will be describing them in due course. An adult beetle emerged from the pupa after six days.

This is apparently the first time larvae of *P. polaris* have been found in Britain. The finding identifies positively *Salix herbacea* as a food plant here, confirming a suspicion from the habits of the beetle in Iceland (Larsson & Gigja, (*loc. cit.*)) and from the noted association of adults with this plant in Britain and Scandinavia.

As far as timing goes, we found on a previous occasion active adults at a similar site at the end of May (Owen, J. A. 1983 *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 119, 191) but no attempt was made that time to look for eggs or larvae. Larsson & Gigja (*loc. cit.*) recorded eggs found (in Iceland) on July 14th, larvae in July and August and a pupa on August 16th. Though adults in Britain are apparently active from early summer onwards, the current finding suggests that, as in Iceland, they do not oviposit until July. The very short pupal stage noted in the one example here may have been a consequence of keeping the pupa at room temperature at Epsom, Surrey where, presumably, the mean air temperature was higher than that in the natural habitat of the beetle on a Scottish mountain. However, Larsson & Gigja state that the pupal period is normally short. All the evidence suggests that the beetle overwintered as an adult.

I thank Mr. Ray Collier, Regional Chief Warden, Nature Conservancy Council, North West Scotland for giving approval for this study and Dr. M. Cox for reading the draft manuscript and making helpful comments. J. A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

EUPITHECIA INTRICATA (ZETT.), (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE)
– NEW TO CHESHIRE. – We are operating a recording scheme in the county for the macrolepidoptera and I receive records from at least 30 lepidopterists from widely spaced localities. Naturally there are “doubtful” identities from time to time and many specimens are brought to me for confirmation (in various states of repair!) and it will be no surprise that a good proportion of these are “Pugs”!

In late June 1987 Alan Roberts, who records at his home in Knutsford (SJ77) and also in the National Nature Reserve at Rostherne (SJ78), brought to me a large pale brown “pug” which I did not recognise; it was still alive and a female from which eggs were readily obtained but I could not get the larvae to feed on any of the usual pug food. Sadly I did not think of trying Cypress. At this stage Mr. Roberts brought me a second specimen, obviously the same species but this time a dead male. I made a slide of the genitalia and also one of a specimen of *Eupithecia intricata millieraria* (Wnuk.) collected many years ago near Aviemore. They were clearly the same species and the fact that I have no specimens of

E. intricata arceuthata (Freyer) probably explains why I did not recognise them in the first place.

It seems only a few years since we welcomed the arrival of *Thera juniperata* (L.) in Cheshire and attributed it to the increased planting of ornamental conifers in parks and gardens; it seems that the arrival of *E. intricata* is likely to have a similar explanation and we are now looking forward to the arrival of *Eupithecia phoeniceata* (Ramb.) and perhaps even *Lithophane leautieri* (Boisd.)

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METOECCUS PARADOXUS L. (COL.: RHIPHOPHORIDAE) IN N. W. KENT. — In a note in 1984, *Ent. Rec.* 96: 184, I drew attention to the apparent paucity of records of this curious beetle from Kent, compared, for instance, with Surrey; and gave one from Bexleyheath as notable in this respect, as also from its proximity to London. I now report a more recent occurrence in suburban Kent. On a chance meeting Mr. P. W. Barrett, a keen observer of nature, described to me a beetle he had seen that morning (24.viii.86) in his garden between Shooters Hill and Plumstead, resting in the sunshine on a tank, and which he had been much struck by. From his description, which stressed feathery antennae, I was fully satisfied that it must have been a male *Metoeccus*. Almost certainly the species is generally distributed in southern England, yet because of its habits not often seen except when suitable wasp nests are dug up. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, London, SE7.

HADENA COMPTA D. & S. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN HAMPSHIRE — I would like to record the capture of a fresh specimen of the varied coronet moth at Martin Down, Hampshire at m.v. light on 5.vii.1987. Neither Goater *The butterflies and moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, nor Bretherton in Heath's *MBGBI 9* record this insect from Hampshire. R. R. COOK, 11 Greensome Drive, Fairways, Ferndown, Dorset.

A CASE OF INTERGENERIC COPULATION BETWEEN LYCAENID BUTTERFLIES — During a field trip to Mt. Iti, central Greece, on 11th June, 1987, a copulating pair of Lycaenid butterflies was captured, which, upon closer inspection and to my great surprise, turned out to be a male *Ultraaricia anteros* Freyer and a female *Cyaniris semiargus* Rottemburg.

The *anteros* were very numerous in that area and consisted exclusively of fresh males, the females apparently not having yet emerged, thus suggesting a case of protandry. Perhaps this total absence of female *anteros* is what triggered this abnormal union.

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